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Patent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

|                                |                               |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Applicant(s): Tomotsugu MATSUI | ) Re: Information Disclosure  |
|                                | ) Statement                   |
| Serial No.: 10/593,173         | ) Group: not yet assigned     |
|                                | )                             |
| Filed: September 15, 2006      | ) Examiner: not yet assigned  |
|                                | )                             |
| For: "ABSORBENT ARTICLE"       | ) Our Ref: B-6133PCT 623732-0 |
|                                | )                             |
|                                | ) Date: November 8, 2006      |

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria VA, 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the Applicants' duty to disclose information which may be material to the examination of this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that the Examiner consider on the merits the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) before issuing the first Office Action on the merits. We are enclosing herewith a copy of each foreign document listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified).

The documents listed are those cited in an International Search Report for the corresponding PCT Application. A copy of the International Search Report is enclosed herewith.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists.

The Applicants believe that this IDS is being submitted before the issuance of a first Office Action on the merits and before the issuance of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance. Therefore, no official fees should be due; and this IDS should be considered on the merits. If this IDS is being submitted after the issuance of the first Office Action on the merits and before the issuance of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, please contact the undersigned to authorize a payment of \$180.00 (or any other

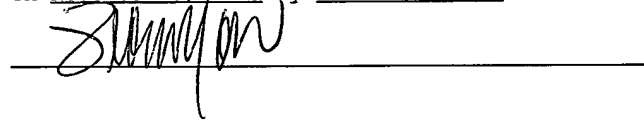
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required amount), which is the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), if the Examiner believes that such a fee is due in order for this IDS to be considered on the merits.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. (Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.)

The person making this statement is the practitioner who signs below on the basis of information supplied by an individual associated with the filing and prosecution of this application (37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c)) and on the basis of information in the practitioner's file.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450", on November 8, 2006 by Veronica Yoon.



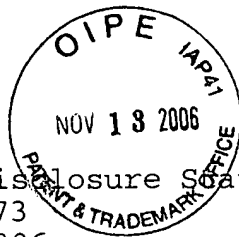
Respectfully submitted,



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Reg. No. 43,010

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Enclosures: Form PTO-1449 (modified) (1 page)  
copy of International Search Report  
copy of each document listed in the International Search Report



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|---|--|--|
| <b>Form PTO-1449 (Modified)</b><br>Page 1 of 1    | <b>ATTY DOCKET NO.</b><br>B-6133PCT 623732-0 | <b>U.S. SERIAL NO.</b><br>not yet assigned |
| <b>LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS STATEMENT</b> | <b>APPLICANTS</b><br>Tomotsugu MATSUI        |  |
|   | <b>FILING DATE</b><br>September 15, 2006     | <b>GROUP</b><br>not yet assigned           |

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| EXAMINER<br>INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER | ISSUE<br>DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUB-<br>CLASS | FILING DATE<br>or 102(e)<br>DATE IF<br>APPROPRIATE |
|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|------|-------|---------------|--|
|                     |                 |               |      |       |               |  |
|                     |                 |               |      |       |               |  |
|                     |                 |               |      |       |               |  |

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

|  | DOCUMENT NUMBER | PUBLICATION<br>DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION<br>YES/NO |
|--|-----------------|---------------------|---------|-------|----------|-----------------------|
|  | 2003-070838     | 11/2003             | JP      |       |          | Abstract              |
|  | 2002-153505     | 5/2002              | JP      |       |          | Abstract              |
|  | 09-299401       | 11/1997             | JP      |       |          | Abstract              |
|  | 2003-516185     | 5/2003              | JP      |       |          | Abstract              |

**OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)**

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|                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| <b>EXAMINER</b> | <b>DATE CONSIDERED</b> |
|                 |                        |

**EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.